



Immediate Release

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All Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 2 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2010 totaled 6.90 million head, down 2 percent from July 1, 2009. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.16 million head on July 1, 2010 was down 3 percent from July 1, 2009. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 2.74 million head, were down 1 percent from last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.37 million ewes one year old and older, 175,000 rams one year old and older, and 620,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). Market lamb inventory at 2.65 million head was comprised of 1.58 million lambs under 65 pounds, 550,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 285,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 235,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 90,000 head.

Lamb Crop Down 2 Percent

The 2009 lamb crop in the United States is expected to total 3.60 million head, down 2 percent from the 2009 lamb crop of 3.69 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2010 totaled 3.15 million head or 88 percent of the yearly total. An additional 450,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2010. The 2010 expected lambing rate of 108 lambs per 100 ewes is unchanged from last year.

Total Goat and Kid Inventory Down 1 Percent

All goat inventory in the United States on July 1, 2010 totaled 3.67 million head, down 1 percent from the previous July number. **Breeding goat** inventory totaled 2.74 million head, down 2 percent from July 2009. **All market goats and kids** totaled 925,000 head, unchanged from the previous July. On July 1, 2010, **meat and all other goats** totaled 3.11 million head, down 2 percent from July 2009. **Milk goat** inventory was up 1 percent increasing to 390,000 head while angora goat inventory, at 165,000 head, was unchanged from a year ago.

Kid Crop Virtually Unchanged

The 2010 kid crop in the United States is expected to total 1.95 million head, virtually unchanged from the 2009 kid crop. The 2010 expected kidding rate of 104 kids per 100 does is up 1 percent from the 2009 kid rate of 103.